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TO : Assistant Director, OO
ATT : Chief, OO/C
FROM : Assistant Director, ORE

->19 April 1950<

SUBJECT: Anders Project

REF : Confidential Survey entitled "Hoover Library Collections of Polish Material: Anders Collection", with Exhibits, prepared by the Air Studies Division of the Library of Congress for the Department of the Air Force

1. A recent ad hoc interdepartmental conference on this subject was held under the chairmanship of [] of your office, to discuss the desirability of exploiting the files of General Anders, which are presently at the Hoover Institute and Library of Stanford University. It is understood that these files comprise about 35,000 documents consisting of statements made by Polish military personnel after their release from captivity in the USSR, when the Soviet Union finally entered the war on the side of the Allies. The statements concern their personal experiences and technical observations during their captivity in the USSR, where they were sent to prisons and forced labor camps all the way from Western Russia to Vladivostok. The documents cover the period from 1939 to 1942 and are written in Russian and Polish long-hand. An index by subject is available, but without cross references. It is further understood that General Anders has made these files available, through the Hoover Institute and Library, only to the United States Government and not to private individuals, at least for the present.

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2. This Office believes it highly desirable to exploit these documents, for the benefit of the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence agencies. Although the date of the information contained therein is quite ancient (1939-1942), our knowledge of certain subjects presumably covered by them either contains large gaps or is of still greater antiquity. This is particularly true of some of our economic intelligence on the areas covered by this collection.

3. Of particular interest for exploitation are the documents listed in Exhibit A of the reference, entitled "Various Statements and Reports Containing Valuable Information". Microfilms of some of these documents are believed to be available. If so, this office would like to inspect them without delay, and would appreciate your assistance in this regard.

4. In addition, exploitation of this source is believed to be particularly worthwhile for the development of intelligence on the following items:

a. Items listed in the Questionnaire (Exhibit E of the reference):

(1) Employment in the USSR (Item 3)

(2) Required norms of work in Poland and the USSR (Item 7)

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(3) Modern tools and installations seen in the USSR (Item 19)

b. Items listed in the Subject Catalogue (Exhibit F of the reference):

(1) Reorganization of Polish state enterprises (Section 1, Item 15)

(2) Liquidation and looting of private property in Poland specifically as to administrative techniques (Section 1, Item 16)

(3) Conditions of life under the Soviet occupation, particularly as to employment and wages, recruiting of workers for work in the USSR, and shortcomings in distribution (Section 1, Item 115 a, d, and h)

(4) Forced labor of prisoners of war, particularly the categories of labor and appraisals of the importance of various work projects (Section 2, Item 23)

(5) Norms of work in Soviet prisoner of war camps (Section 2, Item 24)

(6) Conditions of life in Soviet forced labor camps, particularly the categories of labor, appraisals of the importance of various work projects, the use of transit facilities, and the estimated production of mines from descriptions of mined materials and of the uses to which they are put (Section 4, Item 47)

(7) Norms of work in Soviet forced labor camps (Section 4, Item 48)

(8) Locations of settlements of deportees in the USSR and their employment, particularly to determine specific areas of unusual industrial activity from observations as to the development of transport facilities and the kinds of industry under construction or being improved (Section 5, Item 52)

(9) Soviet trade unions, particularly the nature of their activities (Section 9, Item 911)

(10) Geographic data on the USSR (Section 9, Item 914)

(11) Norms of work for soviet citizens, particularly in comparison with those of prisoners of war and forced laborers (Section 9, Item 917)

5. It is therefore recommended that this source be exploited as indicated above, provided that other components of CIA and other US intelligence agencies join in this project. It is further suggested that the initial exploitation of this source be confined to a modest trial run, for the purpose of developing specific items of intelligence information falling within the fields of interest outlined in paragraph 4 above. Upon receipt of sample reports on such items,

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it can then be determined whether or not the results produced justify the preparation of requirements for full exploitation and the expenditure of the additional funds and efforts which such full exploitation would entail.

/s/

THEODORE BABBITT

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